

REMARKS

The office action of October 13, 2005, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

Claim 1 is objected to for containing various informalities.

Claim 1 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Lay in view of the patent to Erickson.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claim 1.

Applicant has changed "recess" back to "reduced diameter portion" although both mean the same thing in the present invention. Fig. 1 clearly shows that the outlet connection 9 has a recessed outer surface that forms the reduced diameter portion 27. Thus, "recess" and "reduced diameter portion" are synonymous. In any event, applicant has returned claim 1 to the language previously used.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the drawings and claim 1 are overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claim presently on file differs essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

The Examiner has merely repeated the rejection made in the last Office Action.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Lay, it can be seen that this patent discloses, as shown in Fig. 1, a ball valve 100 having a valve housing 130 with a coupling part 140 welded thereto for connecting a hose. The valve housing 130 and the coupling part 140 are made of a high density polyethylene, whereby the welded on coupling parts have a limited elasticity.

The patent to Erickson discloses a magnet valve constructed as a ball valve for controlling the pressure of a pressure fluid. The valve housing 30 is made of a glass fiber-reinforced polyethylene (see col. 3, lines 19-29, and Fig. 1).

The Examiner combined Erickson with Lay in determining that claim 1 would be unpatentable over such a combination. On pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action the Examiner states that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make both the valve housing and coupling of Lay as glass fiber-reinforced as taught by Erickson in order to make both pieces stronger and the glass provides rapid crystallization during the molding process."

Applicant respectfully submits that this argumentation is not correct. The Examiner appears to think that in the present invention the housing and the male part of the coupling are made of the same material, namely glass fiber-reinforced high density polyethylene in order to strengthen the housing and the coupling part. On the contrary, according to the presently claimed invention the valve housing is made of a high density polyethylene and the male part of the quick disconnect coupling is made of glass fiber-reinforced high density polyethylene.

The high density polyethylene gives the housing a slight elasticity which makes possible the tight sealing of the flap 3 of the flap valve due to the elastic spreading of the valve seat of

the valve housing 2 in the closed position of the flap 3.

The glass fiber-reinforced high density polyethylene material of the male part of the quick disconnect coupling makes possible a tight connection of the flap valve with a discharge hose, on whose connection end the female part of the quick disconnect coupling is provided.

Finally, the reduced diameter portion 27 of the outlet connection of the valve housing results in a mutual uncoupling of the valve housing of limited elasticity and the rigid male part 23 of the coupling, so that the desired different material properties of the valve housing and the male part of the coupling do not negatively influence each other.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach a tapping valve as recited in the claim presently on file, wherein the valve housing is of a polyethylene of high density so that a tight sealing of the flap valve or ball valve is provided, wherein the male part of the quick disconnect coupling is of a glass fiber-reinforced polyethylene of high density so that a tight connection with a discharge hose is possible, and wherein the outlet connection of

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the valve housing has a reduced diameter portion so that the desired different characteristics of the slightly elastic housing and the rigid male part are not undesirably influenced. Such a construction is not taught by the combination of references relied upon by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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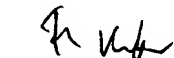
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Dated: January 12, 2006

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By:



Friedrich Kueffner

Date: January 12, 2006